

NEWS RELEASE

IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

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<u>IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD</u> APPROVES LOANS, GRANT, AUTHORIZES BOND WORK

For Immediate Release Boise, Idaho – Aug. 27, 2003 For Media Information Contact: Dick Larsen - (208) 327-7933

The Idaho Water Resource Board has approved \$87,600 in loans and grants and given permission for work to begin issuing a \$4.5 million revenue bond at its meeting held last week in Boise, Board officials announced today. The Board also approved changes to the Priest Lake Comprehensive Plan designed to promote kokanee salmon recovery in the lake.

The Board also agreed to a restructuring of an existing \$300,000 loan to allow a \$100,000 payment and \$200,000 to be paid over the next 10 years. The loan repayment, by the North Snake Ground Water District, originally had been set for one year.

The financial requests approved by the Board included:

- A \$7,500 grant and a \$12,500 loan to the Lindsey Lateral Association (serving 200 residential users in Boise) for a feasibility study for converting their open ditch system to a pressure pipeline system;
- A \$11,692 loan to the Highway Unit Grazing (Cassia County south of Minidoka Dam) to replace one well and deepen a second; and
- An increase of \$56,000 to an existing loan to Powder Valley-Shadow Brook Homeowners Association (Teton County east of Driggs) to complete a water supply improvement project.

A request for a loan of \$100,000 by the City of Spirit Lake (Kootenai County) to rehabilitate a water storage tank was deferred until the Board's next meeting pending additional information.

Board members also authorized staffers to begin work on a \$4.5 million revenue bond issue to fund water system development at the proposed Tamarack Resort in Valley County. The Board will have to give final approval before the bonds can actually be issued.

The changes to the Priest Lake Comprehensive Basin Plan alter the timing of fall water releases from the lake outlet. The changes mean lake levels will remain higher longer into the fall to protect the eggs of the shoreline spawning kokanee.